

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC (Partial:
Historic Resources of Tarboro (historic and architectural--not archeological)
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
The area of Tarboro developed by 1931
CITY, TOWN Tarboro VICINITY OF Second
STATE North Carolina CODE 037 COUNTY Edgecombe CODE 065
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
Multiple Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Town of Tarboro: Mayor, Victor Herring
Multiple Ownership. Notify: Town Manager, Donald Taylor/Planner, Watson Brown
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Tarboro VICINITY OF STATE NC 27886

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Edgecombe County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Tarboro STATE NC 27886

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey (Cotton Press, Lanier House.)

DATE 1940
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS HABS, Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE DC

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Tarboro Historic District

I. General, Geographic Description

Tarboro is a small coastal plains town which has served as a political and regional trade center since its establishment at the upper terminus of navigation of the Tar River in 1760. The present character of the historic district of the town is a pleasant combination of many contrasting, complementary elements--of small-town graciousness and considerable energy and bustle; of large historic natural open spaces (including the common, the riverside area, and notable churchyards) and densely filled commercial and residential blocks; of handsome and well-preserved tree-lined residential avenues and the contemporary industrial and compact original commercial areas that produced them; of a substantial number of early days of the town and an important collection of houses, shops, churches, and industrial buildings of the postwar growth era; and a remarkable blend of the Old South charm associated with the historic town, and the New South energy of postwar industrialization that made the town what it is today. In the 1950s and 1960s an intensive modernization and industrialization campaign brought not only growth but also demolition of some important landmarks, including the courthouse and town hall. Growth continues at present but in the 1970s has been accompanied by an exemplary local preservation program that combines the efforts of the municipal government and the local citizenry. The Common remains open, and the edges between the residential and commercial areas remain relatively intact. The chief threat to the integrity and essential density of both areas is in the occasional institutional and commercial construction, but more especially in proliferation of parking (and thus demolition, usually of residential fabric) along the blocks between Main Street and the residential areas.

The central area of Tarboro included in the National Register Historic District retains much of the character of the town as it developed in the antebellum period, the late nineteenth century early industrialization era, and the growth period of the pre-Depression period. The edges of the old section of town, flat land of the coastal plain, are defined not by dramatic hills and valleys but by natural waterways and important open spaces, and crucial manmade features such as the railroad.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Tarboro Multiple Resource Description

NOTE: Sections and letters like the content and order herein, follow draft instructions for completing multiple resource nominations.

A. General Physical Description

Tarboro is a middle-sized coastal plains town of about 10,000 people, which has served as a county political center and regional trade center since its establishment at the upper limit of navigation of the Tar River in 1760. It is located on rather flat land typical of the coastal plain, on the north side of the Tar River. The railroad--the Seaboard Coast Line, formerly the Atlantic Coast Line--enters the town toward its north end, running diagonally southeast into town, with branches extending into town and southward along the main through side street, Albemarle Avenue. Like many communities, Tarboro has in the period since World War II, and especially since about 1960, grown rapidly at its edges, so that it has a border of suburban residential fabric, as well as a good deal of industrial and strip commercial development. At the heart of the town, however, extending north from the Tar River that gave the town its life, and along the railroad that continued the town's development from the mid-19th century, survives a substantial core of historic fabric from the 18th century through the early 20th century. Scattered isolated historic structures also stand in the edge areas.

The survey of the multiple resource area included the entire area of Tarboro as it had developed by roughly fifty years ago--as recorded on the April, 1931, map of the town produced by the Sanborn Map Company of New York. (See Sanborn Map enclosed.) This area is believed to include all significant or possibly significant standing resources of Tarboro. This entire area was studied because much of the town's important historical and architectural development occurred in the early 20th century. The initial survey sought to identify all significant individual properties and complexes or neighborhoods that maintained their visual and/or historic integrity. The initial survey revealed, however, that not all of the area included retained architectural or historical integrity; and that, in fact, the areas most disturbed by (a) demolition; (b) new construction and/or (c) alteration of individual buildings, were those developed between ca. 1900 and ca. 1931. The area whose integrity was least disturbed was the historic heart, the oldest portion of the community, and the late 19th century-early 20th century residential area north of it.

The following general areas of pre-1931 development were identified and assessed:

1. Central business district, composed of commercial, industrial, and scattered residential fabric. Some intrusions, some demolition, but generally intact. (This is shown on the 1931 Sanborn Map as Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and lower parts of 7, 8, and 9). This area consists of a dense, traditional grid of streets, with the central spine, Main Street, lined with commercial buildings, many of the late 19th-early 20th century, and low frame or brick industrial buildings of the same era. This area is included in the National Register district nomination (which see for more detail).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Est. BUILDER/ARCHITECT Various

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tarboro is a significant community historically and architecturally as a small early riverside trade center it retains important elements of many periods of development from its pre-revolutionary beginnings at the head of navigation on the Tar River, through an antebellum growth period, through the successful efforts at industrialization after the Civil War and continued business growth in the early 20th century. Chief survivors of its early days are the grid plan extending back from the river and the vital open space of the Common, an important example of early community planning. Scattered, handsome late 18th and early 19th century dwellings survive, some with early outbuildings. A line of stylish villas stretching north from the Common is a unique survival of such antebellum suburban development. These and other dwellings of the period recall the cotton-based prosperity of the prewar era, as well as the beautiful Calvary Church. Important concentrations of commercial and industrial buildings alike date from the energetic efforts of Tarboro businessmen to regain economic strength in the postwar period, and the town retains an impressive collection of architecture from the period ca. 1867-1900, including the homes of white and black political and business leaders. The early 20th century witnessed continued growth in business and housing, expressed in the many fine commercial buildings and notable Colonial Revival, bungalow, and other dwellings.

Despite destruction of some of its landmarks in a mid-20th century growth spurt, Tarboro retains a unique charm all its own. It has a remarkable survival of the graciousness of the small Old South town it was in its early decades--the beautiful open spaces of the Common and Calvary Churchyard, the antebellum townhouses and villas with their broad yards and urban outbuildings, the multitudes of magnolias and other flowering Southern trees, the presence of old families and older buildings typical of Eastern North Carolina. Spicing the mixture, however, is the bolder energy characteristic of the New South generated in Tarboro by determined leaders, old and new, after the War. Railroad and industrial buildings crowd along the rail and river arteries around the town, vital collections of agriculture-dependent processing and selling operations. Blocks of substantial Victorian and early 20th century residential neighborhoods blend with their older neighbors and include the homes of railroad and industrial leaders as well as the workers attracted to town for jobs. This blend is rare: the state has several communities where either the prewar grace has survived with little subsequent growth, or where late 19th and early 20th century development created new towns where only villages had been before or obliterated the early fabric, but few retaining so much of both times.

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Criteria Assessment:

- A. The historic district and associated individual properties included within the Tarboro Multiple Resource nomination are associated several important broad patterns of history: the development of inland, riverside trading centers throughout North Carolina in the eighteenth century; the growth of the plantation economy in the antebellum period and burgeoning trading and service communities dependent upon this economy; the late nineteenth century establishment and success of agriculture-related industry and commerce and attendant population growth; and increasing urbanization in the early and mid twentieth century.
- B. Individual buildings and the development of the community in general are associated with a series of persons significant to the history of the town, state, and nation. Craftsmen, business leaders, industrial figures, clerics, political leaders, educators, and others have played prominent roles in Tarboro and beyond. A sampling would include Episcopal bishop Joseph Blount Cheshire II; industrialists W. S. Battle and F. S. Royster; politicians Thomas Blount, George H. White, and W. E. Fountain; newspaper editors George Howard, Frank Powell, and John C. Dancy; businessmen David Pender, John L. Bridgers, and Arthur Morris; architects William Percival and E. G. Lind; craftsmen Edward Zoeller, Henry C. Cherry, and Charlie Pulley; governor Henry T. Clark; military figure Louis Wilson, and dozens more.
- C. Tarboro's architecture includes representative examples of domestic architecture from the late eighteenth through the mid-twentieth century, and commercial, industrial, and religious buildings from the early nineteenth century onward. The scale of the community is harmonious, the grid of the streets remains intact extending back from the river, and the open spaces of the Town Common and churchyards survive. A few individually outstanding buildings punctuate the architectural fabric of the town, such as the Barracks, a romantic villa, and the elegant Gothic Revival Calvary Church designed by William Percival, and the charming Gothic cottages of the mid-nineteenth century; earlier dwellings like the Blount House and other similar traditional houses survive in a regionally significant concentration, and notable Victorian houses include the Farrar House, Redmond-Shackelford House, and others. However, the principal significance of Tarboro's architecture lies in the totality of its character--the solid and unbroken rows of commercial buildings lining Main Street, the gracious lawns and well-preserved dwellings north of the Common, the functional and sturdy industrial buildings near the river and Hendricks Creek, the notable collection of antebellum villas west of North Main Street, the scattered churches and their churchyards, the charming repetition and variety of the sprightly sawn lattice trims of many porches, and other clusters and relationships that knit the fabric of the town.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See the bibliography for the district nomination, which is the standard bibliography for Tarboro, and would be duplicated (at great length) for the Multiple Resource Bibliography.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY See district & individual entries

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION of Multiple Resource Area. The study area included all of the area seen as urbanized on the Sanborn Map of 1931 (attached). This is bounded generally thus: beginning at the mouth of Hendricks Creek, go east along the E. Carolina Railroad to its junction with St. James Street, then generally northeast to the east end of Wilson Street along Wilson Street to the Town Limit, then north along this limit or Hendricks Creek to Howard Street and the Atlantic Coastline Railroad, then across Howard eastward to its end, then diagonally along various as seen on and going slightly beyond the edges of the town as seen on SM of 1931, to the eastern town boundary, then along the town's eastern boundary and

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY Descriptions and general preparation by Catherine Bishir; NAME/TITLE Research by Joe Mobley, researcher, and Bishir; Assistance by Angela Barnett, intern and Susan Mooring, student assistant.

ORGANIZATION	Survey & Planning Branch	DATE
	N. C. Division of Archives and History	
STREET & NUMBER	109 E. Jones Street	TELEPHONE
		919-733-6545
CITY OR TOWN	Raleigh	STATE
		NC 27611

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 5-10-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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tion, and on the east by the rear (east) property line of the east side of St. David Street and, southward, by the center line of Panola Street, and still farther south, by a line including half a block of St. James Street eastward, then south to the river. This is seen on the enclosed map labeled "Housing and Community Development Impact Area Map," and relabeled "National Register District, Tarboro, North Carolina," and outlined thereupon by a heavy black line.

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Geographical Data
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TARBORO HISTORIC DISTRICT

Latitude	Longitude
1. 35° 54' 17"	77° 32' 24"
2. 35° 53' 28"	77° 31' 48"
3. 35° 53' 15"	77° 32' 16"
4. 35° 54' 8"	77° 32' 37"

MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

Latitude	Longitude
2. 35° 53' 28"	77° 31' 48"
3. 35° 53' 15"	77° 32' 16"
5. 35° 54' 20"	77° 32' 49"
6. 35° 54' 28"	77° 32' 24"